

Turner Public Spirit oldest Building on Main Street pre-dating great fire

Continued from page 7

Street. It is constructed with Second Empire styling and features a slate mansard roof with dormers, supported by double-bracketed wood cornice, two second-story bay windows on the front facade, and accompanying double windows on the third floor. Purchased by Mrs. Nutting by Daniel W. Fletcher in 1899, it has continued to be run as a clothing store.

#59-61 Main Street
Turner Public Spirit Building

Built in 1868 and moved to this location from "Merchant's Row" in 1878, this is the oldest structure on Main Street. The building predates the Great Fire of 1872 and is representative of the kind of clapboard buildings which were common before the fire. The publication of *Turner's Public Spirit* began in this building in 1869 as a weekly newspaper.

#63 Main Street
Phelps Building

The first building on this site

was built in 1858 by Phelps, Harlow and Tarbell near the site of Camp Stevens and moved to this location. The present building was constructed by Phelps in 1872. It is one of the three wooden structure on Main Street and is an example of Second Empire style. Its unique floor plan was designed for a pedestrian entrance along West Street with a basement entrance and raised loading dock on Main Street, providing easy access for loading and unloading of wagons. Originally, it also had a rear ell and pitched roof but is now capped with a third-floor mansard roof and dormer windows. Original details have been obscured by siding and aluminum flashing.

Two buildings on the south side of Main Street were designated by the National Register of Historic Places as examples of early 20th century commercial architecture.

The Barry Building
Built by John Barry in 1914,
this is the oldest building on the



south side of Main Street. Architecturally, it is a long, two-story commercial block, finished in concrete brick and wood cornice detail, square-cut stone lintels and sills on

the second floor.

The Eli W. Carley Building
Built by Eli W. Carley in 1916, this building complements the Barry Building to its west.



Flood waters...Among the many natural disasters which has struck Ayer over the years was this flood. The photo was taken by W.A. Wright on February 14, 1900. The note next to the photo in the Richardson album states that this was the highest water in Ayer in 22 years.

Kelley's Hallmark

Pictured from left to right
Jean Stevens
Penny Kelley
Ed Kelley
and
Vera Wallace

61 Main Street, Ayer
772-2571

HARBOR REALTY

109 Main Street, Townsend, MA
(978) 597-5501 • 800-924-8253 • Fax 978-597-6920
Visit our new Web site at: <http://www.net1plus.com/users/harborr>

Seated, Barbara J. Reagan, CRB, CRS, GRI, Owner/Broker.
Standing left to right,
Darlene Lielasus,
Carol Tule,
Robyn Reagan,
Brooke Reagan.

TURBO LUBE

9 min. oil change

21 Fitchburg Road, Ayer (Across from Victory) 772-4454
Mon. - Fri. 8 AM - 5:30 PM, Sat. 8 AM - 4 PM

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
HUNNEMAN & COMPANY

#1 In Massachusetts
#1 In Groton
Serving Groton and Surrounding Towns
112 Boston Road, Groton
(978) 448-2311 • (978) 597-8901 • FAX (978) 448-2924

50 Duck Pond Drive, Groton Woods, Groton.....\$475,000
Built in 1991 by respected builder John Giaimo, this 3300 square foot home combines outstanding design, materials and finish work into a delightful statement of colonial-inspired architecture. Central air conditioning and vacuum serve this 10 room, 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath residence, which also boasts a 3 car garage, 3 season porch and walk-up attic for storage or future expansion. Barry Curcio, the listing broker, has been marketing upscale and antique homes in the area for 13 years with Hunneman-Coldwell Banker's Groton office.

HUNNEMAN ON LINE
Hunneman Real Estate • Hunneman Mortgage Corp.
ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!
<http://www.hunneman.com>
Call (617) 756-9077 or (978) 433-9077 enter ID#
Property Information 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

I-C FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Receptionist Christine Tower of Shirley, Teller Nicole Hunt of Shirley, Head Teller Melissa Fetterhoff of Littleton, Assistant Manager Stephanie Seeley of Groton and Manager Bonnie Holston of Shirley.

Back to the Future.

Since the current year is 1998, and this advertisement will appear in a newspaper that is being locked into a time capsule until the year 2098, we thought it might be fun to briefly describe, to future readers, some of what "state-of-the-art" meant a century earlier. Believe it or not, paper money still existed in 1998 in the forms of currency (cash) and paper checks. In 1998 people would receive paper paychecks as compensation from their employers. They would then take their paper paychecks to their financial institutions and deposit them into personal accounts. Some of their money would go into checking accounts so paper checks could be written to pay paper bills. Some of their money would be deposited into savings accounts to be used at a later date. And some of their money would be used as cash currency. To accommodate the handling of all this paper in a fast, efficient way, I-C Federal Credit Union built the state-of-the-art branch office (shown above) at 72 Park Street in Ayer in 1997. This branch office had parking for 45 gasoline-powered vehicles, two drive-up teller windows, a drive-up ATM (Automated Teller Machine that, among other things, dispensed cash currency) and 7 inside teller windows. In 1998 I-C Federal Credit Union set the standard for fast, efficient personal service and convenience.

In 1998, I-C Federal Credit Union was also the only local area financial institution to offer PC Home Banking which enabled our Members to access their accounts and pay bills with personal computers, saving them time and money.

PCs (personal computers) were available in two forms in 1998: Laptop models like that shown here, and desktop models with separate computer, monitor and keyboard



In 1998, modems were required to enable computers to talk to each other or for internet access. Modems were connected to telephone lines for this data transmission.

To readers in the year 2098, we hope that showing a little of what was considered "state-of-the-art" a hundred years earlier has amused and wowed you. What seems so archaic to you now was still considered futuristic to many in our time. Above all else, we hope that 2098 is a time of peace, prosperity, health and happiness for all.

The Better Alternative.



Main Office: 300 Bemis Road, Fitchburg (978) 343-3725
Branch Offices:
Ayer: 72 Park St. (978) 772-5993 • Fitchburg: Parkhill Plaza (978) 345-0607
Leominster: 400 Mechanic St. (978) 537-4855 • Watertown Plaza (978) 466-3500 • Westminster: 101 Main St. (978) 874-1609

The town and the railroad - an up and down relationship

Looking for a way to connect his paper mills in Fitchburg with the markets in Boston in the early 1840s, Fitchburg industrialist Alvah Crocker secured a charter to build the first railroad through the quiet agricultural area in the southern part of Groton.

When the town of Groton heard that the railroad would run through their territory, they voted a committee to confer with the directors of the railroad and instructed the committee to advocate the location of a depot at the lower end of the town.

The first Groton depot was located at the railroad's intersection with the main road from Groton to Harvard, and was known as Flanagan's crossing. The passenger station was on the south side of the railroad; the freight house was located west of the passenger station. On the north side of the track a large wood-shed was built. This remained the railroad depot until the construction of Union Station in 1848.

To secure the laborers he

needed, Mr. Crocker met the ships in Boston and secured the services of Irish immigrants to work on his railroad line. By June 1844 the railroad had reached Concord, by October it was in Acton, by December in Shirley, and reached Fitchburg in March 1845.

The Fitchburg Railroad was to develop into one of New England's major railroads through to New York State, upon the completion of the Hoosac Tunnel, another of Crocker's projects to extend his markets westward.

At the same time as this east-west rail route was being established, the Worcester and Nashua Railroad was being chartered to establish a north-south route. The route between Ayer and Clinton opened in July 1848 and between Ayer and Nashua in December 1848. The "Junction" was beginning to take shape.

A third rail line, the Stony Brook Railroad was chartered in 1845 by the citizens of Lowell to access the south and west and to connect to the Fitchburg Railroad



Iron horse...This is an eastern view of the Ayer railroad station. The photo was taken around the year 1879.

at the Willows just east of South Groton.

A fourth rail line, the Peterborough and Shirley Railroad Company, originally proposed to have a terminus on the Fitchburg Railroad

in Shirley, was changed to meet the other railroads at the future junction.

Union Station, constructed in 1848, contained a freight office, telegraph office, baggage room,

waiting room and restaurant designed with sashes to be raised and lowered similar to the Causeway Street Station in Boston.

In 1862 the name was changed from South Groton to Groton Junction.

The map of "Ayer Junction - 1875" on page 21 shows how the railroads created the "junction." It also shows the location of many of the early manufacturers and commercial establishments that sprang up as a result.

Boston and Maine Railroad

By the mid 1880s, these independent lines were being absorbed and consolidated by the Boston and Maine Railroad. Worcester & Nashua in 1886; Stony Brook in 1887; Fitchburg in 1900; Peterborough and Shirley in 1900. The B&M could now provide through passenger service from Portland, Maine, to New York City. It offered excursions on the Hoosac Tunnel route.

The decline of the railroad was as rapid as its rise. By the 1920s, the automobile had broken the railroad's monopoly of passenger travel, and trucks carried increasing amounts of freight.

Worcester and Nashua

Freight to Nashua stopped in 1930. Passenger service to Nashua ended in 1934 and service to Worcester ended in 1960.

The line north of Ayer is currently designated to become a "rail trail."

South of Ayer, the line was rebuilt by Boston and Maine in the 1920s and now serves as the Guilford freight trains to and from Maine to Worcester.

Fitchburg

In 1965 passenger service to Boston was discontinued. By 1980, however, passenger service to Boston returned.

NAPA AUTO PARTS



25 Park St.
Ayer, MA
772-0403

Open Mon-Fri 8-5
Sat 8-2

P.N. LAGGIS CO.
Men's wear - Shoes

67 Main Street,
Ayer, MA
772-2619

P.N. LAGGIS CO.
Home of Preferred Brands Est. 1916

New Millinery.

Step in and see the new line of Spring Millinery. New Hats, New Bonnets, of the latest and most desirable patterns.

All Millinery goods the latest productions of Boston and New York emporiums of fashion.

GERTRUDE MAYHEW,

Opposite Railway Station, Ayer, Mass.

NASHOBA RESTAURANT & PIZZA RESTAURANT

14 Central Ave., Ayer
772-2736

Headquarters Hair Salon

772-9707

8 Central Avenue • Ayer, MA
1978-1998

Owner: Jo-anne Harris Renda

Hybrikon
Since 1976, Hybrikon Corporation designs, manufactures and markets interconnections and packaging products (backplanes, card cages & enclosures) for electronic equipment in the telecommunications, military, aerospace and medical markets.

Greetings to our future generation!
Founder and President, C. Michael Hayward

Dick Abbott John Aulin Gail Balthack Pauline Brinkman Dave Brenner Maude Brown George Bruns Anne Cahill Wayne Casarochi Carol Chapp Howard Christie Judy Corbett Winifred Corbett Dave Crowder Bob Cusack	Quincy Davis Claude Escott Barbara Farrow Dave Ferraro Vivian Feliciano Mark Fitzgerald Daryl Gagne Nancy Gervasi Bryan Giani Rob Roy Gray Dave Groszki Mike Grotzky Paul Gressi Karen Harrington Andrew Hayward	George Hellig Claude Howard, Jr. Linda Ivy Zachary Kowles Angela Lager Matt Lenz Dick Lester James Madors Klin Madors Todd Mallie Julie Mallie Tom Mallie Jenni (or) Martinez Robert Martinez Dorlene Merrill	Dorothy Milon Aaron Morgenstern Bill Murphy Joanna O'Connor Steven Orsini Michelle Paradise Mary Ann Parrot-Bloyd Rae Patti Paul Perence Judy Polacy Glorinda Rayner Dick Rolander Garry Rolapp Sharon Seydel	Tim Shangi, owner Haro Soto Roger Stevens Roger Stevenson Ursula Strand William Suberky Gracida Suberky Dennis Tessler Anna Usher Don Vincent Chai Walis Joan Welch Sandy Whalen Lisa Wheeler Michelle Woodard
---	--	---	---	--

Management Team
Gerry Cahill
Dave Crocker
Paul Frece
Reese Gortzi

Dick Kania
Rolande Kary
Bob Sullivan
Jim Williams

12 Willow Road
Ayer, MA 01432
www.hybrikon.com

MOORE'S
Lumber Yards and Building Centers

Calvin Moore, owner of G.V. Moore Lumber Yards and Building Centers and his mother Zeldia Moore.

22 West Main Street
AYER, MA
(978) 772-0900

Campanelli Companies

"Real estate designed & built to meet your business needs"

Please contact Daniel DeMarco or Jeffrey DeMarco for further information:

Phone: 617-849-1442
Fax: 617-356-6862
E-Mail: ddemarco@campanelli.com

Campanelli Companies • One Campanelli Drive • P.O. Box 850985 • Braintree, Massachusetts • 02185-0985 • http://www.campanelli.com



Frank H. Hartnett, 1947, in New York City. With him are his wife Marguerite and sons Frank and Tom.

Hartnett Tanning Company

Tanning Business



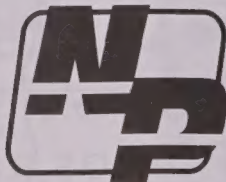
Frank J. Hartnett puts the first shovel in the ground in June 1985 for construction of 20,000 square foot Ayer production facility. Surrounded by friends and family, With him is his wife Gertrude.

Nashoba Publications, Inc.

Publishers and Printers

*Congratulations to
North Middlesex Savings Bank
on this momentous occasion*

The Hartnett Family is proud to be part of the
business community since 1944



**NASHOBA
PUBLICATIONS
INCORPORATED**

Printers and Publishers of The Public Spirit - Ayer Edition, The Public Spirit - Shirley Edition,
Harvard Spirit, Pepperell Free Press, Townsend Times and the Groton Landmark

**69 FITCHBURG ROAD, AYER, MA
772-0777**

Reprint from The Public Spirit May 7, 1898 edition

Boys Will be Boys

And human ingenuity will never devise clothes which a modern boy will not wear out in time, but our "Monitor" Suits will wear longer and cost less money than other makes.

Everything for boys' wear at prices low enough to be within reach of the most modest purse.

E. D. STONE,
Ayer, Mass.

John Brigandi,
Merchant Tailor,
56 Main Street, NASHUA, N. H.

In Ayer, Mondays, at Taylor House.
In Pepperell, Tuesdays, at New Prescott.

I keep a nice line of Cloths to select from of the latest manufacture. Suits artistically cut and made in a superior manner. Warranted to fit. Give me a trial and see how well I can please you. Ladies' Garments cut and made in all the latest styles and satisfaction given.

SPECIALS

Cook's Flaked Rice for Breakfast, 2 packages for 25c.

Shinn's Liquid Rennet Recommended by Leading Physicians.

Frostlene, For Creams and Sherberts.

The Nu-Broom, The Ladies' Favorite.

Rice's Flower AND Garden Seeds, New and Fresh.

Cunard and Dominion S. S. Lines Agency.

P. Donlon & Co.
Men's Block, Ayer, Mass.

DOES Your Bicycle Need Repairing?

It is time to get it done before the rush, in order to save delay.

We have our Sample 98 Wheel in.

Give us a call. They are Beauties. \$40, \$50, \$75, \$85. Tandem \$100.

R. S. HENWOOD,
McGraw's Block, Main Street, Ayer.

If You Want The Best

Send for Description Price List of Strawberry and Asparagus Roots to

C. F. Watts,
Elmhurst Farm,
Littleton Common, MASS.

Agent for Mages' Complete Measures for Shirley, Harvard, Groton and Littleton.

Special Notice.

Hereafter we shall make Our Best Brilliant Finish Cabinet Photos for \$3 Per Baker Dozen of 12, formerly \$4.50.

Groups in Proportion.

Carbonet Finish \$3.50

Formerly \$4.00 per doz. Our usual quality of work will be maintained.

Sept. 16, 1897. C. D. HOLMES.

STRATED.—One Foxhound and one Dash-hound, color black and tan, with white breast, both wearing collars with name on fox H. Reward for information. GEORGE A. HARRINGTON, West Groton.

Not a Ten-Dollar Suit, But a Suit for \$10.00.

You can go into any Clothing Store and buy a Ten Dollar Suit. All the Stores keep them. But you'll get just what you ask for, a Ten Dollar Suit. Now we have a Special Line of

ALL WOOL SPRING SUITS,

made up in elegant style in Blacks, Blues, Browns and Grays, and which we propose to sell at Ten Dollars, as an illustration of what we can do in the way of a special offering. If you have bought a suit as well made and as nicely finished as one of these, for \$3.00 or \$4.00 more than our price of \$10.00, you received your money's worth, which is the same as to say that in buying these Suits at this price, you receive more. Such is the plain, unvarnished fact.

\$10

D. W. FLETCHER, SPAULDING'S BLOCK, AYER, MASS.

EVERY PERSON

Who reads this notice, and all others, are cordially invited to visit our store.

We have added Groceries

To our stock, and our prices invite your special attention.

Our 5c. and 10c. counters contain many values that cannot be beat anywhere.

We are at the old stand, where we first located fourteen years ago. If we have merited a share of your patronage in the past, we certainly hope to in the future.

To introduce our Teas and Coffees we shall offer them as follows:

The very best Mocha and Old Government Java at	32c. per lb.	A nice Coffee at	18c. per lb.
The very best Oolong and Japan Teas	35c. per lb.	A nice Tea at	30c. per lb.

As we shall sell STRICTLY for CASH, we are enabled to offer exceptionally low prices in all our departments. Come in and see us.

A. A. FILLEBROWN & CO.,

East Main Street, Ayer, Mass.

Cambridge

Mutual Fire Insurance Comp'y

IS NOW PAYING DIVIDENDS OF

70 percent on Five year Policies.
50 percent on Three year Policies.
25 percent on One year Policies.

COMPARE YOUR RETURNS WITH THESE FIGURES.

GRANT W. SHATTUCK, AGENT, GROTON, MASS.

Spring Millinery.

Ladies, Our Spring Styles are Now Ready.

We have been at work some time getting ready.

We now have many Trimmed Hats and Bonnets ready for your inspection.

Untrimmed Goods and materials in variety. Will be pleased to have you call.

GEO. L. DAVIS & CO., 26 Main St., Ayer.

My Spring Opening Proved a Great Success,

And I am Now Ready for Business.

My Stock is replete with the Latest Spring Styles in Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats and Bonnets. Work done with the assistance of a French Trimmer. Prices are satisfactory.

GERTRUDE MAYHEW.

Mon Ouverture du Printemps

A ete un Grand Succes.

Mon stock est du plus nouveau at de der-niere mode, dans les chapeaux garni et non garni. L'ouvrage est fait avec l'assistance d'une modiste Francaise. Mes prix sont les plus bas. Que desirez-vous de plus ?

GERTRUDE MAYHEW.

Oppose Chemin de Fer, Ayer, Mass.

BOOKBINDING IN ALL BRANCHES.

Leave your orders for the Binding of Magazines at Public Spirit Office, and they will receive prompt attention. Binding of all kinds done and in a very satisfactory manner at the lowest prices consistent with good work. JOHN H. TURNER, Ayer.

ELECTRICITY.

Why not have an

ELECTRIC DOOR BELL?

In connection with my Jewelry Business I am prepared to do

ALL KINDS OF ELECTRIC WORK.

Door Bells, Burglars Alarms, Electric Light Wiring, Etc.

I carry a STOCK OF ELECTRICAL GOODS. Bells, Batteries, Wire, Push Buttons, Switches, Medical Batteries, and Burglar Alarm Springs for Doors and Windows.

GIVE ME A TRIAL.

H. A. Stone, Ayer, Mass.

JEWELER AND ELECTRICIAN.



WILLIAM CROMBIE
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR
6 NEWTON ST. AYER, MASS.

MONUMENTS, TABLETS, HEADSTONES, ETC.
TO ORDER IN MARBLE OR GRANITE.
WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIAL GUARANTEED. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED. DESIGNS AND PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION.

George S. Wheeler,
DEALER IN

Pianos and Organs

Of all Kinds and Makes.

General Agent for the Celebrated Sohmer Piano.

Agent for the A. B. Chase, Blasius, Albrecht, Ludwig, Stewart, Sterling, Ivers & Pond, Huntington, Jewett, Jacob Bros.

Don't fail to get prices and terms. It will pay you to visit and inspect the largest and finest variety of Pianos in New England, at all prices.

The "Dunbarton,"

Cor. Pearl and Garden Sts., Nashua, N. H.

Piano Tuning a Specialty by J. W. KNOX.

BROOKLINE.

FRANK H. HOWE died Tuesday afternoon, at the home of his brother-in-law, Charles Cummings, in the south part of the town, where he and his family have been stopping since their return to this place, a little more than two weeks ago.

Although apparently a man of rugged physique, Mr. Howe has for several years been the victim of Bright's disease, in its incipient form, which developed with such alarming rapidity during his last professional tour when he spent three months in Mexico, that he was obliged to give up work and come north. On arriving at New York he went to one of the city hospitals for treatment, but after two weeks' stay, the physicians giving no encouragement that his life could be prolonged more than a few weeks at the longest, he came home to die among family friends. The immediate cause of death was a severe hemorrhage, producing suffocation of the heart.

Mr. Howe was born in Baltimore, Md., where his early life was spent. During the war of the rebellion, he served his country in a company of sharp shooters from his native city. At the close of the war he entered upon his career as a comedian, and has ever since made the stage his profession. Mr. Howe was twice married, his present wife being Miss Nellie Cummings, to whom he was married about thirteen years ago, and who is also a member of the same profession. Previous to their coming to make their home in Brookline, some four years ago, they had traveled quite extensively in foreign lands.

Besides the widow, he leaves one child, a little daughter of four years.

The date of his funeral, May 5, marked the fifty-fourth anniversary of his birth. The service took place at two p. m., Rev. J. A. Belanger officiating. The bearers were E. C. Tucker, Samuel Swett, Linville Shattuck and Edward Taylor. The burial was at the south cemetery.

ABOUT TOWN.—The funeral of Mrs. Ann Eliza Kemp, whose death we noted last week, occurred at her late home, last Friday afternoon, Rev. J. A. Belanger conducting the service. The interment was at Pepperell.

On account of the severe storm on last Thursday evening, the drama, "East Lynne," was not presented as announced.

Mrs. H. K. Kemp has returned home from Malden, Mass., where she has spent the winter with her niece.

Daniel McKenzie has moved to the residence of the late Catharine Wallace, and Farley Wilkins has this week taken up his residence at his new home, the Cynthia Sawtelle house.

Last Saturday afternoon, Miss Annie Brown came home from Lawrence, where she has made her headquarters since graduating from the city hospital training school, for a few days' outing. She has had almost constant employment since entering the ranks of the trained nurse.

Mrs. Bertha Swett Pateau from Dedham, has visited the paternal home, the past week.

Tax collector Wm. H. Hall is busy distributing the town tax bills.

The drama, "East Lynne" was repeated Wednesday evening. A good number were in attendance, many out of town visitors helping to swell the numbers.

Geo. H. Willoby of Franklin, Mass., visited at the paternal home on Thursday.

Perley L. Pierce is doing duty as a jurymen at Manchester this week.

Miss Minnie Shattuck has returned to her duties as housekeeper in the family of Rev. J. Mudge, who is stationed this year at Natick, Mass.

Rev. J. A. Belanger attended the meeting of Hollis association at Nashua on Tuesday.

ADDRESS.—We are pleased to announce that Miss Mary L. P. Shattuck of Pepperell will give an address upon "Patriotism as promulgated by the daughters of the American revolution," at the vestry of the Congregational church on next Tuesday, May 10, at three o'clock p. m. Not only those especially interested in this organization, but the public generally are most cordially invited to be present.

This address will be followed at 4.30 o'clock by another talk upon "Child study." At this hour the speaker desires to meet the teachers of the public schools, and all interested in educational work.

Miss Shattuck is an interesting speaker, full of her subjects, and it is hoped she may be greeted by a good sized audience.

LUNENBURG.

NEWS ITEMS.—There is to be a meeting of the historical society, Monday evening, May 25.

A May ball is to be given in town hall, Thursday evening, May 12. Music, Perry's orchestra of Ayer.

There will be union services of the Methodist and Congregational churches at seven o'clock, Sunday evening, May 8, in the Congregational church, and an address will be given by Rev. Mr. Stratton upon the Maine disaster. A collection is to be taken for the monument fund.

Tuesday evening, May 10, Miss Effie Houghton will deliver an address in the Methodist church, subject: "League settlement in Boston."

ACTION.

ITEM.—Otis H. Forbush, auctioneer, will sell a lot of household goods by auction, at the town hall, Acton center, belonging to Mrs. Sophia Whitcomb, on Thursday afternoon, May 7, at one o'clock.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The newspaper trust has advanced prices from ten to twenty-five percent.

"The Butyrone campaign and its results" are the subject of this chapter of Senator Lodge's "Story of the revolution." The battles of Oriskany and Bennington are described in Scribner's magazine, May number, with great vigor, and pictured by Christy and Yohn. Howard Pyle's picture of the burial of General Fraser is the frontispiece of the number.

Ayer Junction just before the bank building was constructed



Bank plays an important part in the development of Ayer since 1895



Bank President...William Marshall is the current president of this prestigious banking institution.



The center...In days gone by, Main Street looked like this. This photo, looking east, seems to indicate a different pace of life than might be seen in the same spot today.

A snapshot of NMSB's history

- Incorporated by Legislation on March 5, 1885.
- First president: Benjamin H. Hartwell
First woman treasurer: Miss Sarah T. Tuten, one of the nation's first female bank officers
First savings depositor: Mr. S. L. Knight
First loan: to Town of Ayer for \$2500
First mortgage loan: to Patrick McMahon of Harvard for \$600
- Highlights of the Bank's presence in on Main Street include:

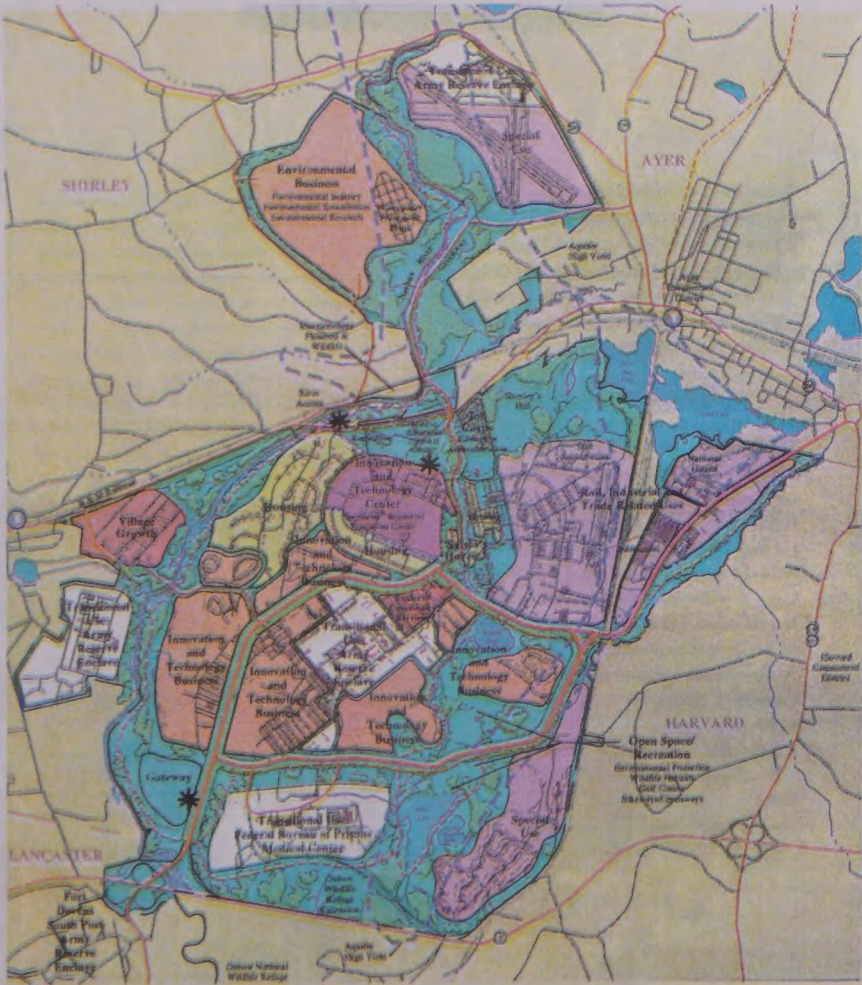
- a vote to purchase the Fillebrown block and land in 1898
- the laying of the cornerstone on May 7, 1898
- the first meeting of the Trustees in the new building in 1904
- a vote to rent the third floor to the Masonic organization in 1908
- a vote to advertise in 1914
- by 1920 the bank's resources had reached \$2 million, and reached \$3 million by 1940
- a vote to purchase lot and land at rear of bank building in 1959
- a vote to install on line computer system in 1969
- and in 1982 becomes a full service community bank.



First President... The portrait above the desk is that of Benjamin H. Hartwell, first president of the North Middlesex Savings Bank.



A prominent place...North Middlesex Savings Bank sits in the midst of the commercial area of Ayer's Main Street.



Devens

A Planned Business Community

THE DEVENS
COMMERCE CENTER
IS A PROJECT OF MASSDEVELOPMENT

43 Buena Vista Street,
Devens, MA 01432
978-772-6340

75 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110
617-451-2477

Reprint from The Public Spirit May 14, 1898 edition

THE CHRISTIAN FLAG.

Symbolic Emblem Invented by a Pious Coney Islander.

He Wants It Adopted as the Standard of Christianity, irrespective of Nation and Creed—A Growing Movement.

Now we have the Christian flag—that is, a flag designed to be the common standard of Christians the world over, irrespective of nationality or creed. Charles C. Overton, superintendent of the Sunday school of Brighton chapel, Coney Island, is responsible for the innovation, and he is deeply interested in spreading the movement.

So greatly interested is he that he has had a large quantity of little buttons made similar to those so frequently seen during political campaigns, each containing on its surface a miniature reproduction of the flag. The Christian Flag Extension society has also been organized, for the purpose of giving the matter wide publicity.

The flag, a number of which have already been made, is symbolic. The ground is white, representing peace, purity and innocence. In one of the upper corners is a square of blue, the color of the unclouded sky, a symbol of faith and trust. In the center of the blue is a cross, the chosen symbol of Christianity, the color being red, typical of Christ's blood.

A hymn, called "The Christian Flag," has been dedicated to the movement, the words of which were written by Fanny J. Crosby, with music composed by R. Huntington Woodman. One verse is as follows:

The Christian flag! God bless it!
Now throw it to the breeze,
And may it wave triumphant
O'er land and distant seas.
Till all the wide creation
Upon its fold shall gaze,
And all the world united
Our loving Saviour praise.

Copies of the hymn have been sent to band masters all over the country, with a request that the music be arranged as a march and played upon appropriate occasions. The request has met with many favorable replies.

A circular descriptive of the movement has also been sent to the superintendents of Sunday schools, with a view to securing widespread cooperation.

The owners of several large excursion steamers have ordered the Christian flag for their vessels to be floated to the breeze when carrying Sunday school excursions.

The idea of a Christian flag occurred to Mr. Overton on last Children's day. Each scholar was furnished with a small American flag, and a parade was inaugurated. A few hours later a convention of liquor dealers was marched over the same ground, and by a strange coincidence each man carried an American flag of exactly the same size as those which the Sunday school children had carried.

In speaking of the occurrence Mr. Overton said he was at once struck by the thought that a distinctive emblem was needed which might be symbolic of Christianity. And in this he meant no disrespect to the American flag. It was simply that the Stars and Stripes are too far reaching.

"There can be no opposition to the assertion that nothing awakens such enthusiasm and emotion as a flag," said Mr. Overton. "An army without its colors is inconceivable; then why not equip the army of the Lord with a flag appropriate to its mission? I would suggest that upon the standard that carries the flag a crown might replace the eagle or spear, emblematic of the reward awaiting the faithful."

Legal Oath in Maryland.
A bill to change the form of the legal oath has been passed by the Maryland legislature and signed by the governor. The change made from the present practice is the doing away with the kneeling of the Bible, or even placing the hand upon it. The Bible is still to be used by the proper official in the administration of the oath, but the person sworn is required simply to raise the right hand in acknowledgment of a solemn promise to tell the truth and the whole truth. The new law makes a change, also, in the words of the oath, which will now begin with the words: "In the presence of Almighty God."

The final clause of the present oath: "So help me God," is stricken out.

The Gypsies of Hungary.
The finest looking people of Europe are the Trigane, or gypsies of Hungary. Physically they are splendid specimens of men and women, and are rarely ill. So pure is their blood that their wounds quickly heal without the application of medicaments.

Four Tons of Buttons.
The New York police, 7,500 men, are to have new uniforms, and each one will require for his two uniforms and overcoat 78 buttons. This means 585,000 buttons, or four tons of brass.

LOOK AT THE DATE, and see when your paper is paid to. If in arrears, please send your dues to PUBLIC SPIRIT OFFICE, AYER, MASS.

LAST WEEK

Of Our Sale of
The Lowell Stock.

Cloaks, Shirt Waists and Wrappers.

All wool covert cloth jackets lined throughout with satin at \$7.25, \$8.00, \$8.50.
100 doz. shirt waists, everyone this year's styles, in an immense assortment of colors and designs, at 10 percent discount from regular prices for one week only.

10 doz. celebrated Domestic wrappers, the best fitting wrappers on the market, correctly cut and made, at only 69c.
12 doz. Domestic wrappers in black and white and grey and white, regular price \$1.25, sale price only 89c.

Chenille Covers

Small chenille stand covers, sale price only 21c.
4 chenille covers in dozens of handsome designs and colorings, sale price only 59c.

The above is a great bargain and the entire lot should be closed out in three days.

Curtain Muslins and Lace Curtains.

Large dot Swiss muslin at 9c. yd.
36 in. Swiss muslin at 12 1/2c. yd.
Scrim, suitable for half curtains, at 5c. yd. and 11c.
Eccles lace curtains, 4 yds. long, taped all around at \$1.09 pr.; better qualities \$1.49 pr.

Corsets.

About 117 pr. of Royal Worcester corsets in broken sizes, former prices 75c, \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50, choice of the entire line for only 59c. pr. Odd lots of corsets at any price to close.

Flannels.

White Shaker Flannel, good quality, at 4c. yd.
A regular 10c. Donet flannel now 7c. yd. Reduced prices on all outing flannels.

White Lawns.

White lawns at 6 1/4c, 8c, 10c and 12 1/2c. from one-third to one-half regular prices.

Domestic Department.

36 in. brown cotton, an excellent value at 5c. a yd., sale price only 3 3/4c.
C. C. 36 in. cotton, sale price only 5c. yd.
C. D. 40 in. cotton or Lockwood, sale price only 5 1/2c. yd.
9-4 unbleached cotton good quality, only 13c. yd.
36 in. half bleached cotton, only 6 1/2c. yd.

Bleached Cotton.

Fruit of the Loom bleached cotton, in short lengths of 10 to 20 yds., only 5 1/2c. yd.
A regular 10c. bleached cotton, only 7c. yd.
Hill 42 in. bleached cotton, only 8c. yd.
Fruit 42 in. bleached cotton, only 9c. yd.
A good quality 9-4 bleached sheeting, only 14c. yd.
Seamless tubing for pillow cases, only 10c.

Cambric.

Berkeley cambric, only 8c. yd.
Lonsdale cambric, only 9c. yd.

Linings.

Best lining cambric, only 3c. yd.
Best fast black cambric, only 4c. yd.
12 1/2c. and 15c. silasia reduced to 9c. yd. for this sale only.

Linen canvas, 20c. quality, sale price 12 1/2c. yd., in white, black, brown and slate.

Prints and Gingham.

1 case light shirting prints at 3c. yd.
All 5c. and 6c. prints, now 4c. yd.
50 pieces apron check gingham, now 5c.

Shirtings and Tickings.

Amosack and other standard makes of cheviot, now 7c. yd.
Amosack feather ticking, absolutely the best ticking made at the unheard of price of 10c. yd. No better quality at any price.

Quilts.

A large, full-sized quilt, hemmed ready for use, sale price only 48c.
Greatest values ever known in better quality at 83c, 93c, and 98c.
Elegant quality Marshall quilts worth \$2.50, sale price only \$1.97.

Mosquit etting.

Over 500 pieces of Mosquit netting, slightly damaged, in white and black at only 18c. a piece. Just think only a trifle over 2c. yd.

Dress Goods.

Hundreds and hundreds of pieces of wool dress goods, over \$3000 worth, to be offered at less than mill prices.
So great is the variety that it is impossible to describe each kind in detail, but the assortment is so great that we can suit all tastes, and in addition save you from 20 to 40 percent from city store prices. Prices range from 17c to 85c. a yd., and every lot is a record breaker.

All wool challies now 19c. yd.
Organdi rucho were 12 1/2c., now 6 1/4c.
Remnants of 36-luch lawn, now 4c. yd.
Figured lawn, formerly 10c. yd., now 5c.

Silkaleens and Draperies.

All 12 1/2c. silkaleens, now 9c. yd.
Golden draperies, formerly 12 1/2c., now 9c. yd.

Crashes and Towels.

Washed cotton crash 3c. yd.
Unbleached linen crash only 5c. yd.
Good quality linen crash only 6c. yd.
Elegant quality linen crash, worth 10c. and 12 1/2c. yd., sale price only 8c. yd.
Bleached cotton towels, only 4c. yd.
Unapproachable bargains at 10c., 12 1/2c., 15c. and 18c.

Table Linens.

Turkey red table damask at 19c. and 21c. yd.
Best quality made of turkey red damask, worth 60c. yd., sale price only 29c. yd.
All linen table damask at 21c., 33c., 42c., 50c. and 59c. and upwards. Prices much below the regular market.

Table Oil Cloths.

5-4 table oil cloth, worth 25c. yd., sale price only 12 1/2c. yd.
Low prices will prevail on hosiery, underwear, lace, aprons, gloves, ladies' suits and capes.

Box Paper.

15c. quality box paper for 9c., 3 for 25c.

Boot and Shoe Department.

We shall include our stock of boots and shoes in this grand mark down sale, and shall offer bargains never approached in this vicinity.
100 pairs of the celebrated James Means \$3.00 men's shoes, every pair guaranteed and equal to any \$3.50 shoe in the market, to be offered, while the lot lasts, at \$1.98.
69 pairs of ladies' dongola button boots, pointed toes, to be closed out at only 83c.

The above is a splendid wearing shoe and we have the same thing in stock in a little wider toe and \$1.50 has always been the lowest price. Every pair warranted.

Ladies' Princess Oxfords, regular price \$1.25, sale price 98c.

We have every size in the above lot. Our line of shoes was never so large or complete as this season, and we offer you a discount of 10 percent on everything bought in this department during next week.

Men's Furnishings.

Men's suspenders at 9c., 12 1/2c. and 17c., worth double.
Men's fancy negligee shirts, sale price only 12 1/2c.
Men's open front, white laundered shirts with colored bosoms, worth 75c., sale price only 43c.
Men's seamless half hose, in tans and blacks, for this sale only, 3 pairs for 25c.

Small Wares.

Best 6 cord twist machine cotton 3c.
100-yd. spool silk (colored only) 9c.
10-yd. spool twist (colored only) 1c.
Marshall linen thread (white only) 4c.
Bone hair pins, a card, 8c.
Wash, rope and flannels, regular price 5c. a skein, sale price only 2c.

Belts.

Good style belts only 10c.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.—All sales will be for cash. Positively no samples will be given during this sale. Sale from Monday, May 9, to Saturday, May 14.

A. A. TARBELL,

Stores } Railroad Square, Pepperell, Mass.
12-14 Main Street, Suncook, N. H.

Korn Kures.

The Common-sense Corn Cure a speedy remedy for the removal of Corns:

Something entirely new and original for the speedy and harmless eradicating of

Hard and Soft Corns,

Bunions, Callouses

And Warts.

It never fails. We also have the Hindoo Corn Cure, a sure cure for corns and bruises.

TEN CENTS BUYS A PACKAGE.

FOR SALE AT AYER BARGAIN STORE.

To be Closed Out.

The following articles are to be closed out next week, way below cost, actually giving them away to make room for a new line of Millinery, at what was the Ayer Bargain Store, opposite Railway Station, Ayer, Mass.:

Japanese Fans, Dolls, Pin Trays, Fancy Boxes of all sizes and thirty styles, Screens, Baskets of all sizes, Fancy Bows, Paper Cutters, Fancy Cups and Saucers, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Pictures and Frames of all styles and sizes, Gentlemen's Smoking Sets, Gentlemen's Cuff and Collar Boxes, Match Boxes, Albums, Writing Desks, Pocket Books, Games of all kinds, Toys and Dolls both rubber and china, Scissors, Paper Weights, Napkin Rings, Hand Glasses, Crepe Paper, Rust Radiator, Fancy Vases, Thermometers, Barometers, China Pin Trays hand painted, Toothpicks and holders, Mending Tissue for books and music, Gold Paint, Shawl Straps, Fancy Toys, Children's Picture Books.

GERTRUDE MAYHEW.

BOOKBINDING

OF ALL KINDS done in a most thorough manner. Old Books rebound. Leave your Binding at Public Spirit Office, Main Street, Ayer.

SOMETHIN' IS LACKIN'.

Let me introduce a gentleman you may have met 'ere now:
He's a dweller on a fertile farm, 'n' keeps a horse and cow.
'N' eleven dogs, a cat or two, ten fighting cocks—'n' say,
He will swear by all th' stars, that farmin' 'n' doesn't pay!

He has acres 'n' good plantin' land—th' finest ever seen.
When th' weed is mavin' o'er th' soil in tranquillity serene;
Yit by diligence he manages t' raise his winter's hay.
But when with great vehemence, the farmin' 'n' doesn't pay!

Oh, th' daisies grow luxurious whar 'taters ought be.
'N' th' plan-ivy climbs around each shade 'n' apple tree,
So he spends his time in fashin' (des' t' drive his cares away).
'N' cussin' all creation 'cause his farmin' 'n' doesn't pay.

'N' the crabs betwix th' shingles on his roof lets in the rain,
'N' a cardboard er a piece 'n' tin replace th' shingles 'n' no way,
'T' spend a cent in fixin' up while farmin' 'n' doesn't pay!

Oh, th' troubles an' th' trials of old "Farm-er Dyer's" is great!
An' it would set th' world a-weepin', of th' hull 'n' shill he should relate,
'N' I know he's perseverin', fr' I've seen 'm' all an' fat.
Fr' a day, 'n' never ketch enough t' fill a sardier dish.

'N' th' laws 'n' this creation isn't what they ought be,
'N' th' somethin' 'sadin' lackin' in this country, great 'n' free.
When a perseverin' tiller 'n' th' soil's obliged t' say,
That with a little perseverance, he has never made it pay!

—Western Rural

SIZE OF SUGAR BEETS.

The Small Kinds are Richest in Saccharine Matter and the Most Profitable for the Grower.

At a discussion upon sugar beets recently among the members of a Wisconsin farmers' institute Prof. W. A. Henry, dean of the Wisconsin agricultural college, said, concerning the size of beets: "The best sugar beets weigh about two pounds each. Do not try to grow great, large beets, thinking they are the best. Years ago when I was looking up the best sugar question in California I had a conversation with some of the officials of the Southern Pacific Railroad company in their office in San Francisco. I was urging upon them the importance of best sugar production in California. Col. Crocker, the leader, showed much indifference, saying that he had lost \$50,000 in trying to promote this very enterprise. I told him that that was not necessarily a reason why best sugar production could not yet be profitable. Later on in our conversation, when talking about California's wonderful productions, he said that in his experience he had grown beets that weighed 20 or 30 pounds each. As soon as he told me this I replied: "There, Col. Crocker, is one of the reasons your factory failed. You thought large beets were good beets, when in truth they are poor beets, and helped wreck your factory. You should have tried to produce small beets, but many to the acre; and such, if grown properly, would have been rich in sugar, and these would have brought you success instead of failure."

FENCE-WIRE WINDER.

With This Tool One Man Can Do Lots of Work Without Tearing His Hands or Clothes.

Last fall I made the device for winding up fence wire, shown in the accompanying illustration. It is a troublesome job to move a wire fence, but with this tool one man can wind up

barb wire smoothly and quickly, and without tearing his clothes or hands. The wheels for the front end are some old pulleys picked up at an implement warehouse. None are placed on the rear end, so that the sled will drag a little harder to increase the tension. Fasten the end of the wire to an empty spool, and place the spool on a crowbar, run through holes in the standards. Stand behind, between the runners, and turn the spool, which will wind up the wire and draw the sled along—Sebastian Meyer, Jr., in Farm and Fireside.

Locate the Underdrain.

Wherever an underdrain has been laid, either a map of the ground should be drawn, or such other memorandum as will enable the owner of the land to always know where it may be found. There is nothing more provoking to the buyer of a farm that is only partly underdrained than his inability to decide just where the old drains are located and what size conduits they have. Of course the drain, if in working order, will show within two or three rods where tile or stone may be found. But to reach it then requires much needless digging, which could all have been avoided if the man who laid the drain had been careful to make a record of its location.

The Foundation of Farming.

Good plowing lies very close to the foundation of successful farming, being the foundation stone upon which nearly all thorough and successful soil culture must rest. It is an operation which should never be performed carelessly, for, while it often is expensive to plow the ground thoroughly, it is even more so to permit of the work being done in a hurried and superficial manner.—Agricultural Epitomist.

At Ayer Bargain Store will be found choice Books of the poets and other books by the leading authors at low prices.

Wall Papers.

Why Pay Exorbitant Prices for Wall Papers?

Your attention is called to a carefully selected line of

Fine Wall Papers and Mouldings at One-Half of Usual Prices.

No old stock. All new and attractive designs. Special artistic combinations of Paper, Border and Fringe. 4c. to 80c.
Variegated Tile and Enamel Washable Paper for Kitchens and Bathrooms. I represent the best and new 1898 patterns. Positively no old or shoptown goods. Call and examine. Samples sent at residence.

J. F. MOORE, LITTLETON, MASS.

Arthur Fenner,

General Insurance

Agent and Broker

Main Street, Springfield, Block Ayer, Mass. 19

JOHN M. MALONEY,

Counsellor-at-Law,

Page's Block, AYER, MASS.

Dr. C. A. FOX,

Dentist,

Ayer, Mass.

Is pleasantly located in Public Spirit Building, where he will be pleased to receive those requiring his services.

BRIDGE WORK A SPECIALTY.

NOTICE.

Having purchased the E. Dane Bancroft Insurance Agency, I would be pleased to renew old business and select new insurance. I represent the Fitchburg, Clinton's and Dorchester Insurance Companies. All mutual.

E. D. STONE, AYER.

BICYCLES BICYCLES

1898 Massasoit 1898

Until May 25, 1898, the price on \$50 Massasoit is \$39.75 cash. This wheel is the equal of any listed below \$75, and is guaranteed for the Calendar year. Agent for the Champion Zephyr. Call and see samples.

C. A. Fox, Ayer.

Public Spirit Building. 25

Insurance Placed

ON

Cord Wood

While located on Lot. Apply to

P. H. Hooley, - Ayer,

GENERAL

Insurance Agent

AND Broker.

DEALER IN COAL.

MORGAN'S

New Harness Store.

SPRING OPENING.

I have just received a new line of Spring and Summer Goods such as Lap Robes, Nets, Sheets, Collars and Harnesses.

From the cheapest to the best. Look at our stock before buying. Opposite Postoffice.

White

Plymouth

Rocks.

EGGS for Hatching, 75c. per doz. 18. Satisfaction guaranteed.

W. F. GLEASON, Groton, Mass. 3m30

This design...

H. S. TURNER

PRINTER

and Job Work in Black or Colors.

For typographical excellence and fine presswork. There is no good reason why we should not do a part of your printing—distance does not count. Our work is "up to date."

Pointers

We have the best facilities for executing everything in the line of Printing—Book, Pamphlet, Ball, Poster, and Job Work in Black or Colors. All the Up-to-date Type with Eight Modern Steam-Presses.

Printing, to be effective, must be attractive in arrangement and neatly executed. We made a specialty of the better class of work, and strive to give a customer a first-class job at a fair price. Our work is our best advertiser.

You get your work when promised.

Huntley S. Turner,

Printer, Ayer, Mass.

A SKYSCRAPER IN JAPAN.

The First Structure Over Three Stories High Ever Erected on the Orient.

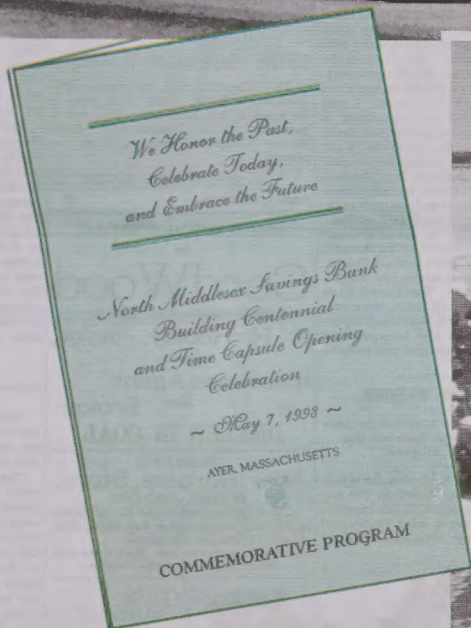
Plans have been drawn and specifications written for the first steel skyscraper in Japan. It is to be erected in Tokio near the residence of the present American Minister to Japan.

The work was awarded to W. J. Bond, an architect of South Dakota, who, immediately upon receiving the contract, packed up his goods and departed for the Land of the Rising Sun to carry it out.

In a land of seismic disturbances like Japan, where ainoons, earthquakes, and tornadoes are common occurrences, at certain seasons of the year, it has never been thought practical to erect a tall building. The one or two story house of straw, or earth, or of wood was considered the best architectural feat that could be accomplished.

This new building will be supplied with steam engines, electric generators, steam boilers, electric wires, steam heat, pumps, drums, water supply, and elevators.

This building will be the first structure over three stories high that has ever been erected in the Orient



A Century of Commitment

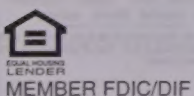
For 113 years, North Middlesex Savings Bank has provided the Nashoba Valley region

with the rock solid sense of stability that a hometown community bank owes its customers.

The Bank has made a commitment to be of service to its customers for the next 100 years and beyond by providing "Banking at its Personal Best."

NORTH MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK

Banking at its personal best.



978-772-3306 • AYER • LITTLETON • PEPPERELL